

WO-267
Dr. George Wilson Bishop House
Snow Hill
private

circa 1872

Prominent among the former citizens of Snow Hill is Dr. George Wilson Bishop, born on property known as the Seaside farm on Duer's Neck on June 9, 1826. He received a medical degree from Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College in 1848. Upon returning to Worcester County, Bishop practiced in the Stockton vicinity for approximately eighteen years. Around 1865 George Wilson Bishop turned his interests toward public office by first serving as the register of wills for Worcester County from 1865 to 1873. Afterwards, he was elected to the state house and served two terms, in 1882 and 1884, as a senator. George Wilson Bishop also helped organize the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, and he held an early interest in the Worcester Railroad as well. He also owned stock and served as director of the First National Bank of Snow Hill.

Dr. George Wilson Bishop financed the construction of this well-preserved frame dwelling on South Church Street around 1872, after his purchase of Lot 85 for \$257 the year before. Two years later Dr. Bishop executed a mortgage on the property for \$600, perhaps in an effort to pay for the construction of the dwelling. The property has remained in Bishop family hands to this day.

This two-and-a-half story ell-shaped Victorian frame house and its accompanying outbuildings are rare survivals in Snow Hill since the structures appear not to have changed significantly since the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The main side hall/double-pile dwelling is distinguished by a distinctive arched porch of period sawnwork, and the

eaves are enriched with pierced wooden decoration as well. Attached to the northwest side is a two-and-a-half story ell-shaped wing that carries the same decoration in addition to a single-story bay window. The rear service wing, although plainer, boasts a two-story porch with brick paved first floor. Standing south of the kitchen are three frame outbuildings of contemporary date to the house. Few nineteenth-century outbuildings have survived in Snow Hill.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: GEORGE WILSON BISHOP HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: W0-267

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1815-1870 AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

a. SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-267

Magi No. 2402675504

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GEORGE WILSON BISHOP HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Church Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Snow Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William R. Bishop

street & number 1728 Olive Street telephone no.:

city, town Reading state and zip code Pennsylvania 19604

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 631

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 211

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-267

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The George Wilson Bishop house stands on the northeast side of South Church Street in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story ell-shaped frame house faces southwest with the principal gable oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built around 1872, the side hall/double-pile frame house is supported by a common bond brick foundation, and it is uniformly sheathed with plain weatherboards. Trimming the corners of the house are paneled pilasters. The medium pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Protruding through the center of the house are interior brick chimneys finished with corbelled caps. Extending to the north is a two-story service wing, and standing near the kitchen is a small group of domestic outbuildings.

The southwest (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking shuttered windows. The molded four-panel door is flanked by four-light sidelights and a three-light transom. The two windows that fill the adjacent bays are shuttered. Stretching across the entire first floor is a decorative Victorian style porch with paneled posts and arched sawnwork between each pair of posts. Screening has been added to the exterior of the porch. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced windows that are shuttered, and the attic is illuminated by a small round arched window covered also with louvered shutters. Paralleling the porch the extended eaves and returns are highlighted with sawn decoration as well.

The southeast side of the main block is finished in a straightforward manner with pairs of shuttered windows on each floor. On the northeast side, however, a two-and-a-half story, two-bay wing extends which is detailed in a similar manner as the main block. Each floor including the attic are defined by shuttered windows, and the eaves are embellished with sawn decoration. Attached to the northwest gable end is a single-story bay window trimmed with a bracketed cornice. A segmental arched window opening with closed shutters marks the second floor of the gable end.

The two-story rear service wing is finished in a similar manner as the main house without as much decorative details. A two-story porch supported by square posts covers the southeast side and shelters side and rear entrances to the kitchen wing and main house. Unusual to the porch is the brick-paved floor. The second floor of the porch has been screened in, but it retains a square baluster handrail.

Three single-story frame outbuildings stand directly adjacent to the kitchen wing. Supported by brick pier foundations, each building is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding, and they are covered with asphalt shingle gable roofs. Board doors provide access through the gable-front orientation of two structures. The use of each building was not determined on the first survey of the property.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-267

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The George Wilson Bishop house is an unusual survival in Snow Hill since the house and outbuildings appear not to have been significantly changed since the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The ell-shaped Victorian house is distinguished by a distinctive arched porch of period sawnwork, and the eaves are enriched with pierced wooden decoration as well. Attached to the northwest side is a two-and-a-half story ell-shaped wing that carries the same decoration in addition to a single-story bay window. The rear service wing, although plainer, boasts a two-story porch with brick paved first floor. Standing south of the kitchen are three frame outbuildings of contemporary date to the house. Few nineteenth-century outbuildings have survived in Snow Hill.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Prominent among the former citizens of Snow Hill is Dr. George Wilson Bishop, born on property known as the Seaside farm on Duer's Neck on June 9, 1826. He received a medical degree from Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College in 1848. Upon returning to Worcester County, Bishop practiced in the Stockton vicinity for approximately eighteen years. Around 1865 George Wilson Bishop turned his interest toward public office by first serving as the register of wills for Worcester County from 1865 to 1873. Afterwards, he was elected to the state house and served two terms, in 1882 and 1884, as a senator. George Wilson Bishop also helped organize the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, and he held an early interest in the Worcester Railroad as well. He also owned stock and served as a director of the First National Bank of Snow Hill.

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Survey No. W0-267

PS-2746



1877 LAKE,
GRIVKING, AND
A W. Smith
C. EVANS ON
ATLAS
Wd - 267

SNOW HILL
WORCESTER CO.

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